



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE LEZLYE ZUPKUS
EIGHTY-NINTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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MEMBER
GENERAL LAW COMMITTEE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Government, Administrative & Elections Committee
February 22, 2016

Testimony in support of H.B. 5245 **An Act Permitting Electronic Notification Of Special Session**

Senator Cassano, Senator MacLachlan, Representative Jutila, Representative Smith and members of the Government, Administrative & Elections Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in support of H.B. 5245, An Act Permitting Electronic Notification Of Special Session. The bill seeks to permit electronic notification to legislators of special session.

Under certain circumstances, the State Police personally deliver a notice to all legislators to report to special session. According to the Office of Fiscal Analysis, the total estimated cost per service of a legislator is \$51.4. Servicing 187 legislators adds to a total estimated cost to serve legislators of \$9,612. This is in addition to the \$11,000 per day for the legislature to hold special session. By eliminating the need to have each notice of special session personally delivered to all 187 legislators, we can substantially cut the cost of special session. With the current budget situation, these measures could be invaluable depending on how often the legislature is called into special session.

In today's day and age, there are more practical and efficient ways to inform the legislature of a special session. We are more connected than ever and there are measures that can be taken to ensure that each member is properly notified of a special session. The current system is not only a waste of taxpayer money, but it is also a misallocation of one of the State's most vital resources, the State Police. By requiring the officers to drive across Connecticut to deliver notices of special session, we are diverting resources that otherwise would be contributing to the overall safety of the state.

It is time to improve the efficiency and lower the cost of special session.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lezlye Zupkus". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lezlye" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Zupkus".

Lezlye Zupkus
State Representative – 89th District
Bethany • Cheshire • Prospect